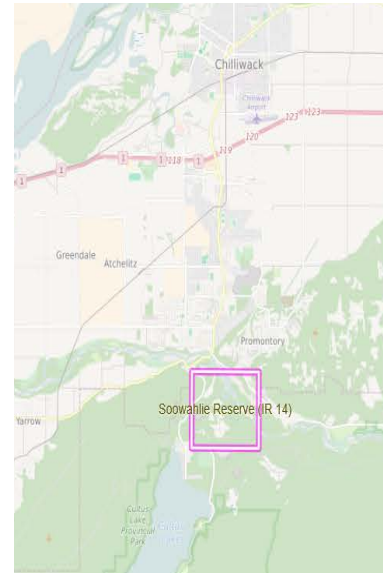
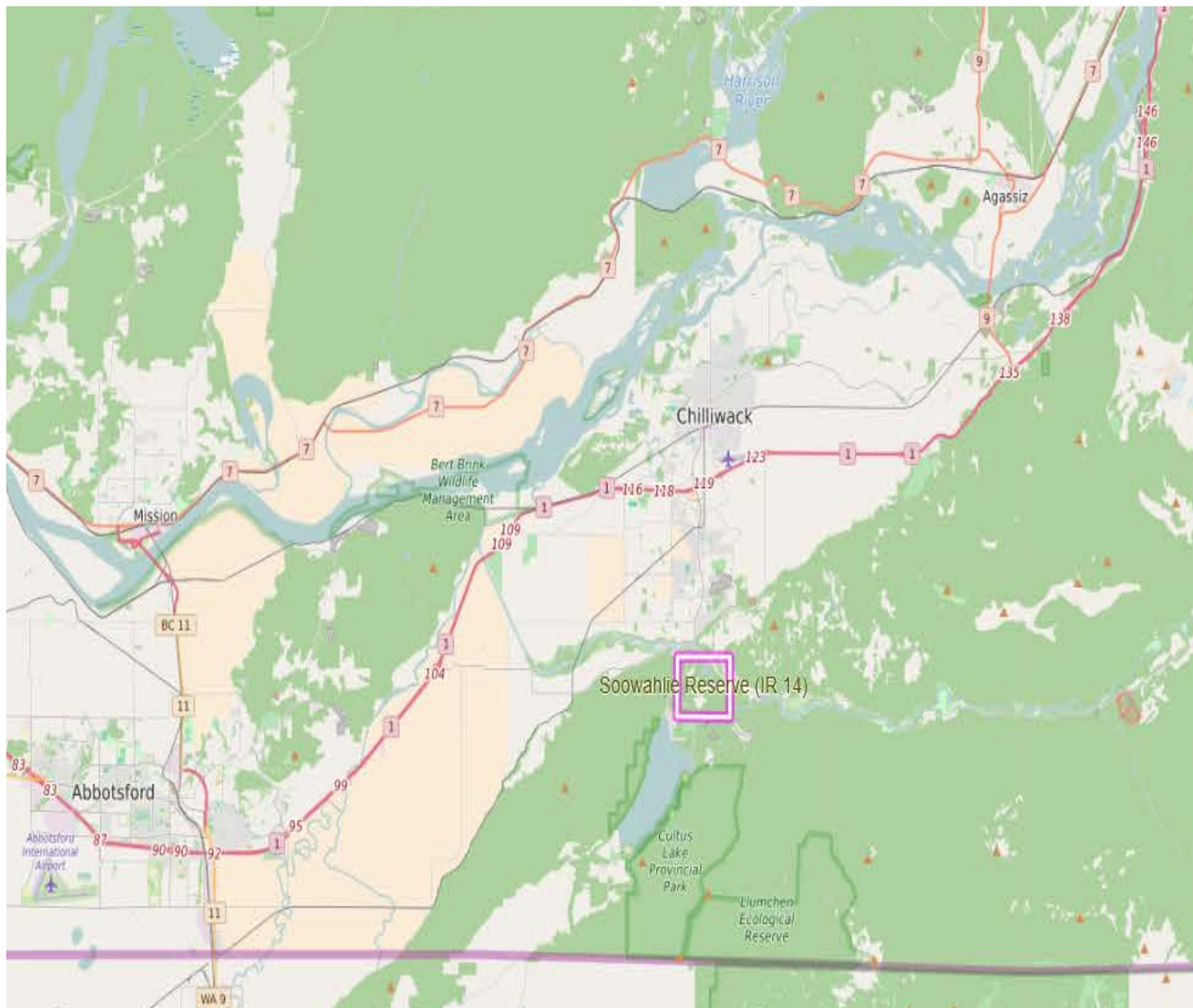


The'wá:lí Community Digital Map



Ethnohistory Field School with the Sto:lo







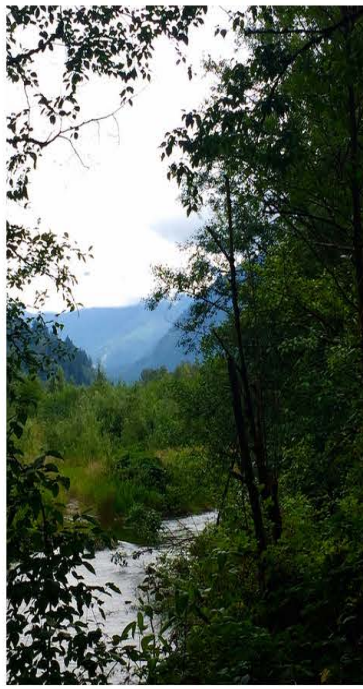
The'wá:li Community Digital Map



Welcome to the The'wá:li Community Digital Map!

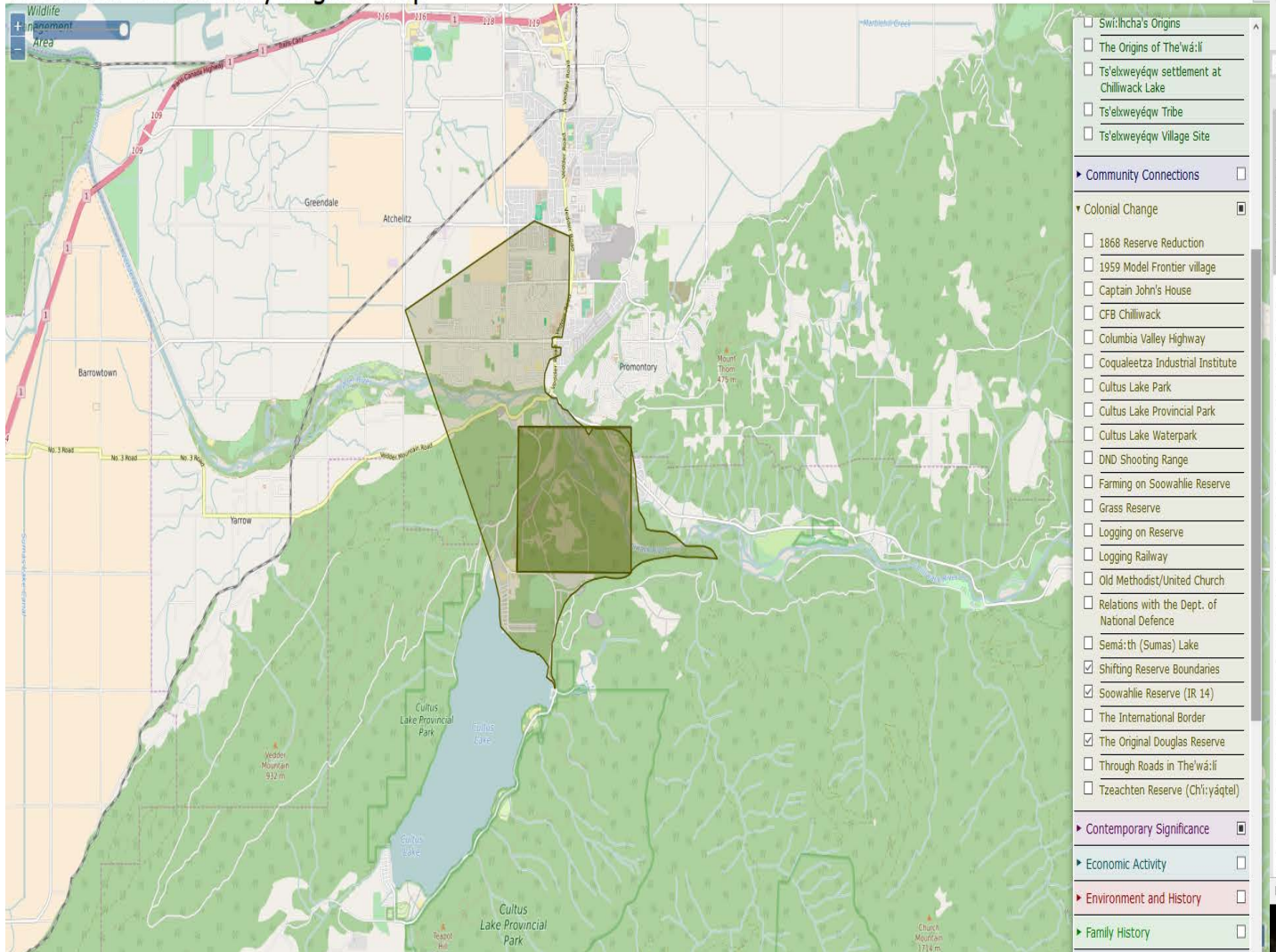
[Click here for the table of contents.](#)

The places we live in are filled with stories. They are alive with the voices of our ancestors and with our own voices today. In this way, the lands and waterways of the Xwélmexw (Stó:lō) community of The'wá:li (Soowahle First Nation) are given life and meaning by voices of people from many generations.

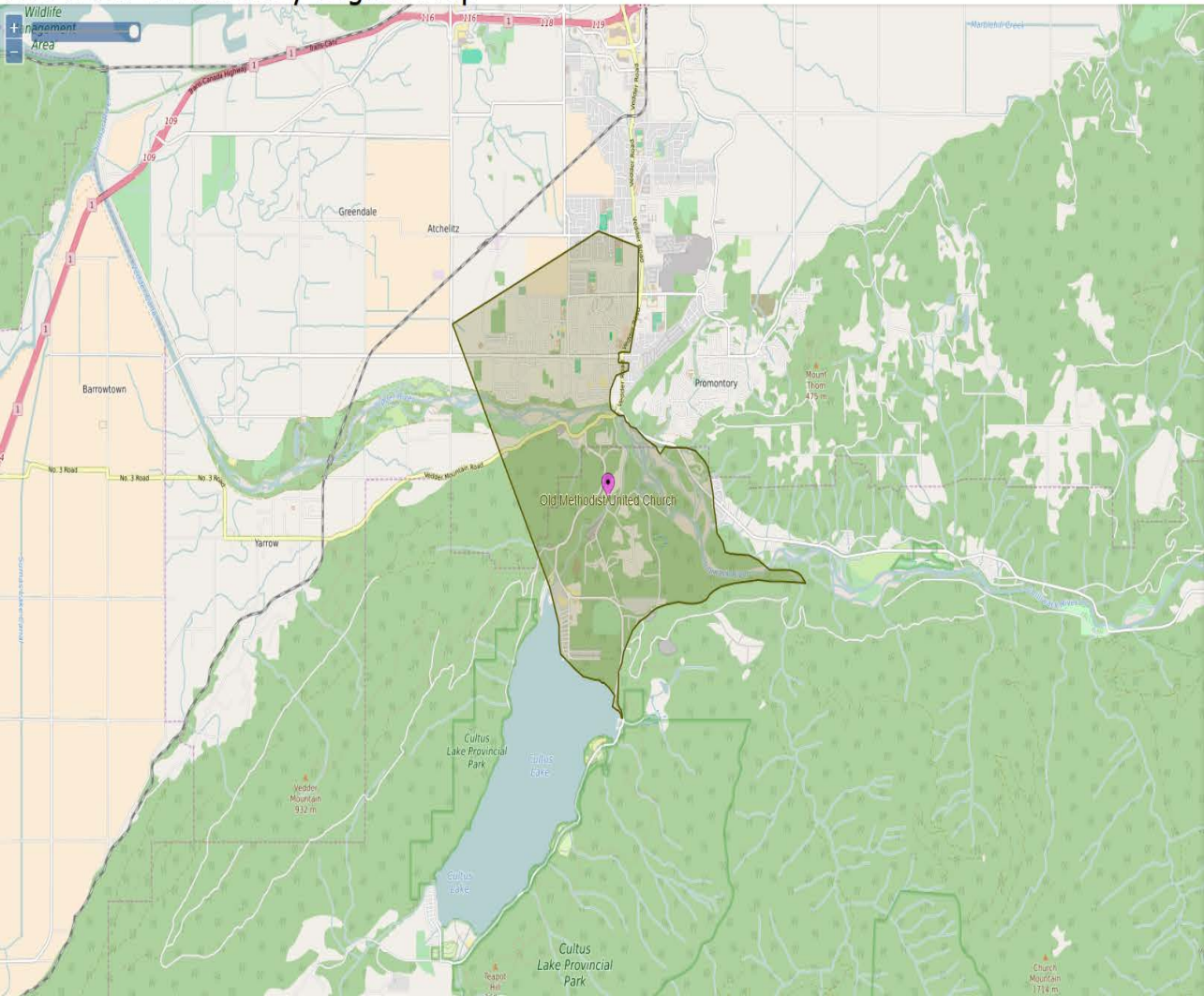


<input type="checkbox"/> Locations by category	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterways	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mountains	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Origins	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Connections	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colonial Change	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contemporary Significance	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic Activity	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environment and History	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family History	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation Places	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Storied Places	<input type="checkbox"/>

The'wá:li Community Digital Map



The'wá:li Community Digital Map



- 1959 Model Frontier village
- Captain John's House
- CFB Chilliwack
- Columbia Valley Highway
- Coqualeetza Industrial Institute
- Cultus Lake Park
- Cultus Lake Provincial Park
- Cultus Lake Waterpark
- DND Shooting Range
- Farming on Soowahlie Reserve
- Grass Reserve
- Logging on Reserve
- Logging Railway
- Old Methodist/United Church
- Relations with the Dept. of National Defence
- Semá:th (Sumas) Lake
- Shifting Reserve Boundaries
- Soowahlie Reserve (IR 14)
- The International Border
- The Original Douglas Reserve
- Through Roads in The'wá:li
- Tzeachten Reserve (Chí:yáq̓tel)


Get more information

Old Methodist/United Church

Methodist missionaries began working in Xwélmexw territory in the late nineteenth century. The'wá:li was one of a few Xwélmexw communities whose members identified as Methodist (rather than Roman Catholic). A small Methodist church was constructed on Soowahlie Reserve some time between 1885-1888, beside Captain John's home. The church itself was used for church services and as a residence, a hospital, and a community-gathering place. Some Elders remember going to the church for a "fun day," and others fondly recall swimming in the adjacent Sweltzer Creek after gatherings. In 1961, the Royal Canadian Engineers renovated the church, installing an oil furnace, which was the likely cause of the blaze that burned the church down in May 1969.


[Learn more...](#)

The'wá:li Community Digital Map




The Old Methodist Church, 1889-1969

Audio clip (00:00:15):




Elder Albert Kelly talks to Dallas Posavad about going to the church for a "fun day" with other kids his age when he was younger. 31 May 2013.

Audio clip (00:00:13):



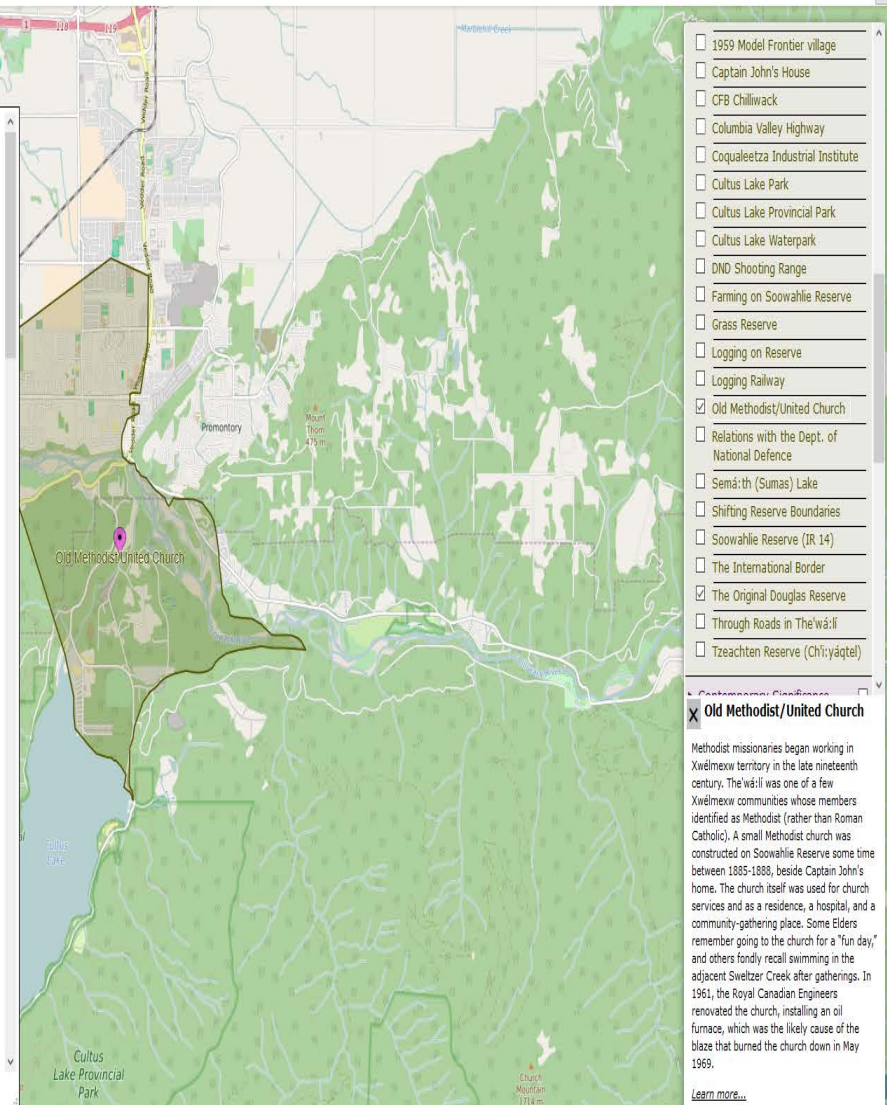
Elder Albert Kelly talks to Dallas Posavad about community gatherings at the church. 31 May 2013.



This 1880s image of the old church next to Captain John's house can be found in the Chilliwack Archives' online holdings. I.d. number: PPS569.

Among the missionaries who came to Stó:ló territory in the nineteenth century were Methodists. Prior to the Gold Rush, Catholic missionaries were the most active and visible missionary presence in the Fraser Valley; but after the 1960s, Methodist and Anglican missionaries also became especially present and active in the valley.

The'wá:li was among the Fraser River communities influenced by the Methodist



- 1959 Model Frontier village
- Captain John's House
- CFB Chilliwack
- Columbia Valley Highway
- Coqualeetza Industrial Institute
- Cultus Lake Park
- Cultus Lake Provincial Park
- Cultus Lake Waterpark
- DND Shooting Range
- Farming on Soowahle Reserve
- Grass Reserve
- Logging on Reserve
- Logging Railway
- Old Methodist/United Church
- Relations with the Dept. of National Defence
- Semá:th (Sumas) Lake
- Shifting Reserve Boundaries
- Soowahle Reserve (IR 14)
- The International Border
- The Original Douglas Reserve
- Through Roads in The'wá:li
- Tzeachten Reserve (Chli:yáqtel)

Contemporary Significance

Old Methodist/United Church

Methodist missionaries began working in Xwel'mexw territory in the late nineteenth century. The'wá:li was one of a few Xwel'mexw communities whose members identified as Methodist (rather than Roman Catholic). A small Methodist church was constructed on Soowahle Reserve some time between 1885-1888, beside Captain John's home. The church itself was used for church services and as a residence, a hospital, and a community-gathering place. Some Elders remember going to the church for a "fun day," and others fondly recall swimming in the adjacent Sweltzer Creek after gatherings. In 1961, the Royal Canadian Engineers renovated the church, installing an oil furnace, which was the likely cause of the blaze that burned the church down in May 1969.

[Learn more...](#)



- Logging on Reserve
 - Logging Railway
 - Old Methodist/United Church
 - Relations with the Dept. of National Defence
 - Samá 18 (Sumas) Lake
 - Shifting Reserve Boundaries
 - Snowshoe Reserve (18-14)
 - The International Border
 - The Original Douglas Reserve
 - Through Roads in The'wá-á
 - Tseaxhten Reserve (Ch'í-yáq'at)
- Contemporary Signif



[WV](#)

